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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,343	06/30/2003	Jai Yi Sie	13839 B	3718
36672	7590	05/17/2005	EXAMINER	
CHARLES E. BAXLEY, ESQ. 90 JOHN STREET THIRD FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10038			GRAHAM, GARY K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1744	

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,343

Applicant(s)

SIE, JAI YI

Examiner

Gary K. Graham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smyth et al (US patent 3,289,233) in view of Hoffman (US patent 2,651,069).

The patent to Smyth discloses the invention, a cleaning device, substantially as claimed, including a handle or rod (19) having a frame (8) connected to one end thereof. The frame has an open end and recesses on each side thereof. A movable rod (25) extends through the frame and is pivotally coupled at one end with a pull handle (27) and at the other end with a connection member (2). The pull handle is pivotally coupled with the rod while the connection member pivotally supports two boards (5). Each board has a positioning member (32,36) for securing a cleaning member (12) thereto.

The patent to Smyth discloses all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of there being two movable rods and such being plate shaped.

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The patent to Hoffman discloses a wringer mop (fig.1,2) including a rod (11) connected with a frame (12). The frame has an open end and recesses on each side thereof. A pull handle (27) is pivotally coupled with the rod and there are two plate shaped rods or assist plates (28) coupling the pull handle (27) with a connection member (23) of a mopping element (25). The assist plates pass through slots in the frame (12).

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to couple the pull handle of Smyth to the connection member with two rods instead of one and to make such plate shaped, as clearly suggested by Hoffman, to improve the strength of the connection between the pull handle and the connection member.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman (US patent 2,651,069) in view of Vaughn (US patent 2,730,744).

The patent to Hoffman discloses the invention substantially as is claimed, including all of the above recited subject matter, with the exception of there being two boards pivotally coupled with a connection member for the mopping element. Each board having a positioning member.

The patent to Vaughn discloses a wringer mop (fig.1) wherein the mopping element is comprised of a pair of boards (28) pivotally coupled with a connection member (23). Positioning members (44,45) are provided to secure the cleaning member (37) with the boards. The mopping element is adapted to be pulled into the open ended frame (47), wherein the boards are pivoted together by rollers (50) to squeeze the cleaning member.

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It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to substitute a mopping element with two boards for the mopping element of Hoffman, as suggested by Vaughn, to provide increased compression of the cleaning member. Due to the boards, the cleaning member will remain in compression even after passing the rollers.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smyth et al (US patent 3,289,233) in view of Hoffman (US patent 2,651,069) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sloan (US 4,971,471).

The patents to Smyth and Hoffman disclose all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of the positioning member being a loop-hook member.

The patent to Sloan discloses attachment of a mop (12) to the lower surface of the mop head (16) via a hook and loop fastener (col. 2, lines 57-60).

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to employ hook and loop fastener to couple the cleaning member (12) of Smyth with the lower surfaces of the boards (5) of the head (1), instead of threaded fasteners, as clearly suggested by Sloan, to provide a quicker, one step connection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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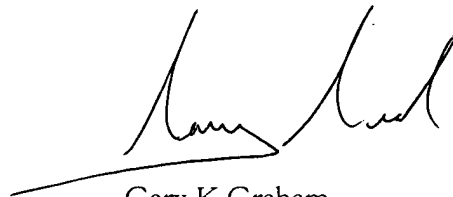
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary K. Graham whose telephone number is 571-272-1274. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday (6:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Kim can be reached on 571-272-1142. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary K. Graham', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Gary K Graham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1744

GKG
13 May 2005